



State of California  
The Natural Resources Agency  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**PROJECT TITLE** Fire Preparedness Exercise 2016

**PROJECT LOCATION** Lytle Creek, Sections 14, 15, 23, T2N, R6W, SBBM

**COUNTY** San Bernardino  
County

**LEAD AGENCY** California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

**CONTACT** Henry Herrera, Unit Forester

**ADDRESS** 3800 N. Sierra Way  
San Bernardino, CA 92405

**PHONE** (909)881-6955

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Fire Preparedness Exercise (FPE) requires CAL FIRE San Bernardino Unit personnel to demonstrate physical fitness and the safe and effective use of fire suppression tactics in preparation for 2016 peak staffing level. The FPE will be located on land owned by the Forest Service in the San Bernardino National Forest within the Boa Rx Burn Project boundaries. The handline cutting area is approximately 23 acres. Approximately one acre will actually be cut. The FPE will consist of approximately 25 handlines (6 feet wide, up to approximately 400' long) constructed by CAL FIRE type I hand and engine crews. Each crew will utilize chainsaws to cut shrubs, and hand tools to remove surface vegetation exposing bare mineral soil (approximately 2 feet wide) for one hour. Length of handlines will depend on the crew's productivity during a one hour time period. No trees will be cut. No burning of the slash will occur. Crews will hike approximately 3.5 miles on existing roads (1N31, 2N52, 2N53) prior to beginning handline construction. Crews will conduct 1000' long progressive hoselays which will not involve the cutting of vegetation. Hoselays will take place on disturbed areas such as roads or existing fuelbreaks along Lower Lytle Creek Ridge. Fire apparatus will be operated from existing roads and road shoulders to pump water for the progressive hose lay. Shelter deployment and tool out will occur at the turnout at the intersection of 1N31 and 2N53. The staging area (Incident Command Post) for the FPE will be Applewhite Picnic Ground. No ground based equipment will be operated off existing road surfaces and already disturbed road shoulders/turnouts. The FPE is expected to take place over the course of no more than five days. The project area has been strategically selected to complement or benefit the fuelbreak construction for the Forest Service's Boa Rx Burn Project and is within the boundaries of the Boa Rx Burn Project. All Forest Service project design criteria will be followed. Project area will be rehabilitated to Forest Service standards.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 §15304 Minor Alterations to Land  
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):  
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)  
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))  
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

### REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT


This project fits under the Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land) Categorical Exemption to CEQA. Class 4 is described as a "minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes." This project as proposed constructs handlines and does not remove healthy, mature, or scenic trees. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact will occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, populations and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE's BDU Headquarters in San Bernardino.

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

APR 21 2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

 4/18/16

Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection